

# Center for Design Systems

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## Background

Established in 1995, the center focuses on researching, designing, developing and commercializing software that brokers information in a time critical way for manufacturing, distribution and design companies.

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*The center has licensed its technologies to two new spin-off companies in Utah.*

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## Technology Development Progress

The center develops and promotes internet and intra-net based applications, for example, combining the aspects of distributed processing, database management, object-oriented programming, and fault tolerance in a system tailored towards highly diverse data and scalability to provide distributed database management to the parts manufacturing and distribution industry.



## Highlights and Accomplishments

The center has already spun-off two companies: Part.net Inc. (<http://www.part.net>) and ErgoWeb Inc. (<http://www.ergoweb.com>). PartNet is a software for electronic commerce over the Internet. The software was licensed to PartNet Inc. Suppliers list their parts in a database that they maintain on site. This database is connected to the Internet via the PartNet Vendor Database Interface software. Users submit queries to the databases through a web browser to the PartNet Client. Responses from the vendor databases are shown to the user in a tabular form containing information on the parts characteristics. PartNet has two commercial accounts and has recently received a \$3.2 million award to develop the system and deploy it in the military services. It has also received \$2.5 million in Department of Defense contracts.

ErgoWeb is a collection of World Wide Web files and programs that deal with ergonomics and safety in the workplace, which allows a user to request information about ergonomic issues, explore a library of online information, interact with tools for computing safety limits and see case studies to remedy dangerous situations. The software was licensed to ErgoWeb Inc. The company has won a \$100,000 contract from U.S. automakers.

\*See news article on page 53

## Summary Data:

### Current

1995-96 Award .....	\$100,000
Matching Funds .....	\$4,030,000
Patents Pending .....	0
Patents Issued .....	0
License Agreements .....	2
Spin-off Companies .....	2
Companies Assisted .....	6
Industry Jobs .....	11
Center Jobs .....	16

### Cumulative

Awards .....	\$100,000
Matching Funds .....	\$4,030,000
Patents Issued .....	0
License Agreements .....	2
Spin-off Companies .....	2